

Does the Democratic leadership want to push millions of middle-income families into the alternative minimum tax? If the answer is no, then they ought to support our reconciliation bill.

Second, the plan extends the progrowth piece of the 2003 tax relief bill, specifically lower capital gains and dividend rates.

As the Finance Committee hearing showed earlier this year, we got testimony about how these incentives have helped the stock market recover. A lot of folks on Wall Street tell us they have assumed continuation of these progrowth tax relief measures in the pricing of stocks. Does the Democrat leadership want to play games with stock prices? If the answer is no, then they ought to support our reconciliation bill.

A third point: Other widely applicable tax relief benefits are addressed in our bill. I am talking about these middle-income tax benefits we already have on the books that would expire. The deductibility of college tuition, the small savers tax credit, the small business expensing—all of these provisions are bipartisan. Millions of taxpayers are already relying on them. Does the Democratic leadership want to take away the deductible for college tuition from families who send their kids to college? Does the Democratic leadership want to eliminate the small savers credit? Does the Democratic leadership want to take away expensing of equipment from our small business folks and farmers? If the answer is no, then they should support our reconciliation bill.

The fourth example is our plan is going to address expiring business and individual provisions that we call extenders because we extend them from year to year or maybe 2 or 3 years at a time. But they eventually run out. These provisions include the research and development tax credit, the State sales tax deductibility from the Federal income tax, and the deduction of teachers' out-of-pocket expenses.

As I noted, the Democratic leader did not come out and say he would support taking a look at some of these regular extenders, but they are a small part of the picture. I note that the ranking member of the Budget Committee hasn't come that direction yet.

The Democratic leadership is not singing with one voice on this subset of expiring provisions. But if we do what the Democrats said they wanted to do in their news conference, these could possibly expire.

Does the Democratic leadership then want to eliminate the research and development tax credit? Does the Democratic leadership want to eliminate the sales tax deduction from the Federal income tax? Does the Democratic leadership want to eliminate the deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses? If the answer is no, then they ought to help us get this budget tax reconciliation bill passed. These are all about growth of the economy.

In the Midwest, farmers—and I am one of them—have a saying: Don't eat your seed corn. Keep planting seed corn. That makes the economy strong. The tax relief seeds we planted a few years ago are yielding, as you can see here, a good harvest of revenue to the Federal Treasury.

What it comes down to is this: We need to take care of legislative business. We need to continue the tax relief promised to the American people and not let it expire, not let there be an automatic tax increase. If there is going to be an automatic tax increase, it ought to be voted by Congress. We ought to have guts enough to increase the taxes.

But we are better off with a plan that stops this automatic tax increase. The revenue side of the budget is performing fine, as you can see here. The American taxpayer is doing his or her share by the tune of \$274 billion more coming in this year, 2005, over 2004. Now is not the time to shortchange the American taxpayers by raising their tax burden, particularly on middle-income taxpayers.

I ask my friends in the Democratic leadership to please refrain from raising taxes on millions of middle-income Americans. It is simple: Maintain existing levels of taxation. You do that by supporting the reconciliation bill that will be coming before this Congress shortly.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX ADVANCE TO THE WORLD SERIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a matter of great importance to the people of the State of Illinois. For the first time since 1959, the era of the "Go-Go Sox," the Chicago White Sox are headed to the World Series. The White Sox will face the Houston Astros, who last night beat the St. Louis Cardinals and clinched the National League pennant. We are disappointed; an I-55 World Series would have been great. But the Cards are a great team, Tony La Russa is a great manager, and they will be back.

I didn't grow up in Chicago, I grew up in east St. Louis, but one of the first things I learned about Chicago is that the people of that city are absolutely passionate about baseball. I have also learned that Chicagoans don't ask you which team you love. They want to know which team you hate—except this time. Today, we are all White Sox fans. As long-time Sox fans are painfully aware, the White Sox have not won a World Series since 1917. Their three-game sweep in the playoffs against the defending World Series champion Boston Red Sox was the first step in exorcising the ghost of Shoeless Joe Jackson and that controversial 1919 White Sox team that was branded the "Black Sox."

It was clutch hitting and pitching that helped this year's White Sox beat the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, four games to one, to advance to the

World Series. In four consecutive playoff games this year, White Sox pitchers threw complete games, a record not matched since the 1956 Yankees.

Speaking of outstanding pitchers, I congratulate my colleague, Senator BARACK OBAMA. He threw out the opening pitch in game 2 of the playoffs. Before that pitch, the White Sox were trailing the Angels one game to nothing. But after Senator OBAMA's blazing pitch, the Sox came back to win four games in a row and clinch the American League pennant. Rumor has it that if the going gets rough in the World Series, the Sox are going to turn to BARACK OBAMA if they need a strong southpaw.

White Sox players will be among the first to tell you: The upcoming World Series is not just a tribute to their outstanding performance. This historic event is a tribute to great White Sox players of the past who came so close only to fall short. They include Ozzie Guillen, who is now the White Sox manager, and, of course, Frank Thomas, their injured star—both White Sox stalwarts in the 1980s and 1990s.

Most of all, this historic World Series is a reward to the millions of White Sox fans who have stood by their team year after year, decade after decade, during seasons of 90-plus wins and 90-plus losses.

I applaud especially general manager Kenny Williams for helping to put this great team together; my personal friends, the owners of the White Sox, Jerry Reinsdorf and Eddie Einhorn, for their undying commitment to building a championship team on the South Side of Chicago. They orchestrated strategic moves to bring improved speed, defense, and pitching to the daily lineup in the form of players such as Scott Podsednik and Jose Contreras whose outstanding performance complemented veteran Sox such as American League playoff MVP Paul Konerko and All-Star Game starting pitcher Mark Buehrle.

When spring training opens next spring, Illinoisans will once again be divided between Cubs fans, White Sox fans, and Cardinal fans, too. But today, we are all pulling for the White Sox as they fight to bring to Chicago the city's first baseball World Series championship in 88 years. For Cardinal red and Cubby blue, the choice is black and white. Go Sox.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES EXTENSION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter dated October 20, 2005, from myself to Senator STEVENS be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: